THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • WEDNESDAY • JUNE 23, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

'PFIZER IN FINAL STAGES OF VAX SUPPLY PACT'

US Pharma giant Pfizer is in the final stages of an agreement with India to supply anti-Covid vaccines, CEO Dr Albert Bourla said on Tuesday. Addressing the 15th edition of the India-US Bio Pharma & Healthcare Summit, organised by the US-India Chamber of Commerce, Dr Bourla also said that Pfizer has made a specific plan that the middle- and low-income countries, which include India, will receive at least two billion doses.

Will vax students, teachers before colleges open: CM

No discussion yet on reopening of schools, says BSY, referring to Devi Shetty report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A health worker vaccinates a senior citizen at K C General Hospital, in Bengaluru on Tuesday | ASHISHREVISHNA HP

THE Karnataka Government is mulling vaccinating all teachers and students on priority as the first step towards reopening colleges. Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, who received an interim report prepared by a 16-member high-level expert committee on the Covid third wave, said the committee's recommendations to open schools and colleges in a phased manner will be considered.

"The Committee has recommended that all schools and colleges be opened after vaccinating teachers and students above 18 years. We will make arrangements so that all students in the age group and teachers can be inoculated before reopening colleges. No discussion has taken place on reopening of schools yet," the CM said.

In its 91-page report, the committee, headed by renowned cardiologist Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, has put forth various suggestions, including additional equipment, manpower enhancement at government hospitals, vaccination and medicine management to tackle the third wave.

"Opening of schools physically is recommended to optimise learning, physical health, mental health and nutritional aspects of children. Any further delay in school reopening may push children into malnutrition, child labour, child marriage, child trafficking, begging etc., making their condition worse. There is an urgent need to offer scientific and definitive guidance for school reopening as any delay in achieving near normalisation of schooling will be more detrimental than Covid itself," the report states in multiple paragraphs on reopening of schools.

The expert team has also recommended that district-level school safety review committees be established. P4

Holding back doses for the big bang day?

A whopping 88 lakh Covid-19 vaccination doses were administered on Sunday, but a closer look suggests states were perhaps accumulating their doses over last week to arrive at the big number. Take Madhya Pradesh, which topped the list with 17.14 lakh doses. Its figures for Saturday, Friday and Thursday were just 692, 22,006 and 14,862, respectively

FULL REPORT: P9

JAB-O-METER
TAKE YOUR SHOT
June 21: 80,95,314 doses
June 22: 52,12,628 doses
TOTAL DOSES: 2,40,42,822

Delta Plus, next big headache

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

THE Centre on Tuesday declared the Delta Plus strain of the coronavirus a variant of concern (VoC) and asked Maharashtra, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh – where 22 such cases were detected – to take immediate measures to curb the virus spread. The suggested steps include preventing crowds, intermingling of people, and widespread testing.

Of the 22 cases detected so far, 16 are from two districts of Maharashtra (Ratnagiri and Jalgaon) in clusters and six more isolated cases in two districts each in Kerala (Palakkad and Pathanamthitta) and Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal and Shivpuri).

According to experts, spread of the Delta Plus variant, if not arrested forthwith, may lead to another wave in no time. There are also fears that this mutant version of the virus may be resistant to the vaccines available in India, though this is yet to be established. "There is an indication that the Delta Plus variant may be more apt to cause severe Covid-19 and is also looking better designed to evade monoclonal antibody cocktail treatment for the infectious disease. These facts definitely are causing a lot of anxiety," said an expert.

According to a health ministry statement, the Delta Plus variant has these characteristics – increased transmissibility, stronger binding to receptors of lung cells and potential reduction in monoclonal antibody response.

In its advisory, the Centre asked the three states to send adequate samples of positive persons promptly to the designated laboratories of Covid genomic surveillance network Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG) so that the clinical epidemiological correlations can be made. Among the other crucial measures are prompt tracing and vaccine coverage on a priority basis.

INSACOG, a network of 28 laboratories in the country, has attached the Delta Plus variant with increased transmissibility, stronger binding to receptors of lung cells and potential reduction in monoclonal antibody response, the Union Health Ministry announced. Apart from India, this variant has been identified in eight other countries – the US, the UK, Portugal, Switzerland, Japan, Poland, China and Russia.

Scientists working with INSACOG explained that the Delta Plus variant was formed by further mutation in the delta or B.1.617.2 variant, first identified in India, which was largely responsible for the ferocious second Covid wave. On Monday, Maharashtra health minister Rajesh Tope had said the spread of Delta Plus variant had been detected in 6-7 districts in the state but the Centre on Tuesday associated just two districts in the state with the variant.

TAKE-OFF PLAN

NCLT nod for Kalrock-Jalan bid for Jet Air

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

THE National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has given approval to the Kalrock Capital and Murari Lal Jalan consortium's bid for Jet Airways, eight months after the lenders had given a go ahead to its resolution plan.

According to the resolution plan of Kalrock Capital and UAE-based NRI Murari Lal Jalan, which was approved by the Committee of Creditors in October 2020 by 97% vote share, around ₹1,100 would be paid in tranches in five years. The resolution professional of Jet Airways – Ashish Chhawchharia – had received claims of ₹44,000 crore out of which he admitted claims of around ₹15,400 crore.

Resolution Professional Ashish Chhawchharia said he is hopeful of the airline reviving and that if everything goes well, Jet Airways could return to the skies by the end of 2021.

CONTINUED ON: P18

Cong has to be in national front: Oppn

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

REPRESENTATIVES of a clutch of Opposition parties attended a meeting hosted at NCP chief Sharad Pawar's residence here on Tuesday, but the sense was a national front cannot be cobbled together to take on the BJP if the Congress is out of the frame.

The meeting, the participants later claimed, was non-political. Among the attendees were leaders from the Trinamool Congress, Left Front, Samajwadi Party, RLD, National Conference and Aam Aadmi Party. The Congress was not represented as some of its invited leaders excused themselves on personal grounds.

Called under the banner of the Rashtra Manch floated by former Union minister Yashwant Sinha, the meeting discussed a wide array of issues, including the ongoing farmer agitation, spiralling fuel prices, unemployment, Covid situation and the economic slowdown.

"The meeting was called by Yashwant Sinha, not Sharad Pawar. This was not a political meet. We called all like-minded people. We also invited Congress leaders. I called Vivek Tanha, Manish Tiwari, Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Shatrughan Sinha for the meeting. They couldn't come. It's not true that we didn't invite the Congress," said NCP leader Majid Memon. P10

NCP president Sharad Pawar (middle) and Trinamool leader Yashwant Sinha (left), with other leaders at Pawar's residence | PARVEEN NEGI

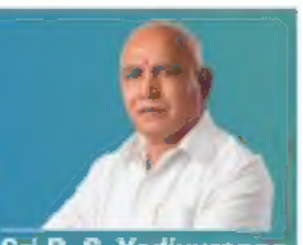
NATIONWIDE	JUNE 21	JUNE 22
Fresh cases	53,256	42,640
Recoveries	78,190	81,839
Deaths	1,422	1,167

KARNATAKA	JUNE 21	JUNE 22
Fresh cases	4,867	3,709
Recoveries	8,404	8,111
Deaths	142	139

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

KARNATAKA BUILDING & OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS WELFARE BOARD

Kalike Bhagya



Sri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Hon'ble Minister of Labour
Sri Arabail Shivaram Hebbar
distributing masks, sanitizers and other essential items to children.

"Kalike Bhagya" - Scholarship scheme for Children of Building and Other Construction Workers

In order to ensure that the children of building and other construction workers are not deprived of their education, the Board is providing scholarship through "Kalike Bhagya" scheme.

Sl. No.	Standard / Course	Annual Assistance Male	Annual Assistance Female
1.	Nursery	3,000	4,000
2.	1st Standard to 4th Standard	3,000	4,000
3.	5th Standard to 8th Standard	5,000	6,000
4.	9th Standard to 10th Standard	10,000	11,000
5.	1st PUC to 2nd PUC	10,000	14,000
6.	I. T. I.	12,000	15,000
7.	Annually for Graduation Courses	15,000	20,000
8.	Admission for Post Graduate Courses	20,000	20,000
	Annually for Post Graduation Courses	20,000	25,000
9.	Admission for Engineering Courses - B.E. / B. Tech	25,000	25,000
	Annually for Engineering Courses - B.E. / B. Tech	25,000	30,000
10.	Admission to Medical Course	30,000	30,000
	Annually for Medical Course	40,000	50,000
11.	Diploma Courses	15,000	20,000
12.	P. G Courses in Engineering - M.E. / M. Tech	30,000	35,000
13.	P. G Course in Medical - M.D.	45,000	55,000
14.	Annually for Ph.D Courses - (Max 3 years)	25,000	30,000

Last date to apply for the Scholarship: 15-07-2021

Website : http://serviceonline.gov.in/karnataka

ELIGIBILITY :
- Either of the Parents of the applicant should be registered with the Board.
- Their registration should be active.
- Candidate should have passed in the previous standard.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED :
- Copy of Labour Registration Certificate / Smart Card / Registration Card issued by the Board.
- Passport size photograph of the applicant.
- Attested copies of Marks Card and Study Certificate.

Let us follow the COVID-19 guidelines and win the battle against Corona Virus.

Wear Mask | Wash Hands frequently | Maintain Social Distance

For further details, please contact
Labour Helpline: 155214 (24/7), Labour Officers and Sr. Labour Inspectors / Labour Inspectors, Department of Labour.

Dr. G. Kalpana, IAS
Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt.
Department of Labour

Akram Pasha, IAS
Labour Commissioner and C.E.O. of KBOCWWB.

AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM School of Engineering

#ClaimYourFuture with Cutting-edge B.Tech Programmes

B.Tech Applications Open

Fully Flexible Admission Process

Scan to apply

AEEE 2021 | JEE MAIN 2021 score | SAT score | PUEE score

AEEE PHASE 3 DATES 11-14 JULY 2021

LAST DATE TO APPLY 05 JULY 2021

amrita.edu/btech Apply Online

Special Sessions for Engineering Aspirants

Engineering Foundation Programme
A free certificate programme for engineering aspirants to lay the foundation of sciences in engineering.

Tech Talks
A free certificate programme for engineering aspirants to lay the foundation of sciences in engineering.

₹56.95 LAKHS P.A. HIGHEST CTC

₹6 LAKHS P.A. AVERAGE CTC

50% SEATS WITH SCHOLARSHIP

95% STUDENTS PLACED in 2020

Education for Life. Education for Living.